



Debra Ollikkala, soprano

Robert Ollikkala, pianist

**Tuesday, October 24, 1989
at 8:00 pm**

**Convocation Hall, Arts Building
University of Alberta**

Program



Programme

Fiançailles pour rire

Francis Poulenc
(1899-1963)

1. *La dame d'Andre*
2. *Dans l'herbe*
3. *Il vole*
4. *Mon cadavre est doux comme un gant*
5. *Violon*
6. *Fleurs*

The Fairy Tailor

Michael Head
(1900-1976)

The Singer

Michael Head

Over the Mountains

Roger Quilter
(1877-1953)

A Lady Fair (*from "Princess Ida"*)

Arthur Sullivan
(1842-1900)

Lak Jeem (*from "RoseMarie"*)

Rudolf Friml
(1879-1972)

INTERMISSION

Hermit Songs

Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)

1. *At Saint Patrick's Purgatory*
2. *Church Bell at Night*
3. *St. Ita's Vision*
4. *The Heavenly Banquet*
5. *The Crucifixion*
6. *Sea-Snatch*
7. *Promiscuity*
8. *The Monk and his Cat*
9. *The Praises of God*
10. *The Desire for Hermitage*

Ständchen

**Ach Lieb, ich muss nun scheiden
Wie sollten wir geheim sie halten**

Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)

Texts and Translations:

Fiançailles pour rire

1. Andre's Lady

Andre does not know the lady whom he takes today by the hand...Did she wander in a vague dress looking for an engagement ring between the millstones? Was she afraid when evening came, watched by the shadows of yesterday in her garden, as winter approached?

He loved her for her color...for her gentleness on Sundays...Will she turn pale looking at the white pages of her album which she keeps from better days.

2. On the Grass

*I can say no more—nor do any more for him
He died for his fair one
He died for his dead fair one
Outside—under the tree of the law
In the middle of the silence
In the middle of the landscape on the grass
He died—unnoticed—weeping on his way—calling, calling for me
But as I was far from him
And his voice no longer carried
He died alone in the forest
Under his childhood tree
And I can say no more
Nor do anything for him.*

3. He Flies^{*}

*The setting sun
Is mirrored on the polished table
Like the fabled cheese caught in the beak of my
Silver-gilt scissors.
But where is the crow? He flies.
I want to sew but a magnet
Draws away all my needles.
In the square the skittle players
While away the time.
But where is my lover? He flies.
I have a thief for a lover.*

He Flies continued

*The crow steals and my lover steals.
He steals my heart and leaves me with empty promises.
The crow steals the cheese and is gone.
But where is happiness? It flies away.
I weep under the weeping-willow
And my tears mingle with the leaves.
I weep, for I want him to want me,
But cannot please my thief.
But where has love gone? It has flown away.
Find the rhyme of my lost reason
And through the country lanes
Bring me back my flighty love
Who steals hearts and my reason.
I want my thief to steal me.*

* The verb "to fly" and "to steal" are homonymous in French and the song is based on this double meaning.

4. My Corpse is Soft As a Glove

*My corpse is soft as a glove, And the pupils of my eyes
are glazed and make two white stones of my eyes. Two white
stones in my face—speechless in silence—shadowed by a
secret and heavy with my dead weight of remembrances.*

5. Violin

*A loving pair of accents
The violin and its player please me, I love these
cries stretched on a string of restlessness...
The heart in a shape of a strawberry offers it-
self to love like an unknown fruit.*

6. Flowers

*Promised flowers, flowers held in my arms, flowers
which escape from the parenthesis of a step.
Who brought you these winter flowers, sprinkled
with sand from the sea—The sand of your kisses,
faded flowers of love?
Beautiful eyes are made of cinders and in the fire-
place a heart ribboned with laments, burns with its holy
recollections.*

Ständchen (Serenade)

*Open very quietly, my child,
Awake no one from his slumber,
The brook hardly murmurs; there scarcely flutters in the wind
A leaf, in the bushes or hedges,
Quietly, therefore, my sweet, so that nothing is stirred,
Quietly, lay your hand on the door knob.
With steps as gentle as those of elves
About to hop o'er the flowers,
Slip out quietly into the moonlit night,
And fly to me in the garden.
The flowers slumber about the rippling brook
And exhale fragrances in their sleep; only love is awake.
Sit down, here the shadows grow mysteriously dark
Under the linden trees;
The nightingale above our heads
Shall dream of our kisses,
And the rose, upon awakening in the morning,
Shall glow with the rapture of the night.*

Ach, Lieb, ich muss nun scheiden (Ah, Love, I now must leave)

*Ah, love, I must now leave,
To wander over hill and dale;
The alder trees and willows
Are weeping, every one.
They have so often seen us strolling
Together on the banks of the stream;
They cannot conceive
The one without the other.
The alder trees and willows
Are weeping sorrowfully,
Imagine then, how we two
Feel in our hearts.*

Wie sollten wir geheim (How can we keep secret)

*How can we keep secret
That blissfulness which fills us completely?
No, unto its deepest recesses
Let our hearts be revealed to all!
When two in love have found each other,
Then, joy spreads through nature;
During longer, rapturous hours
The day descends over forest and meadow.
Even from the rotting trunk of the oak tree,
That has survived over a thousand years,
A green flame in the top-most boughs rises
And rustles excitedly, thrilled by youthful joy.
To a more brilliant lustre and fragrance awaken
The buds, at the happiness of the two,
And the brooks seem to murmur more sweetly,
And more exuberantly blooms and glows the month of May.*

Debra Ollikkala

Born in London, Ontario, Debra Ollikkala received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Vocal Literature and Performance from the University of Western Ontario. After graduating in 1978, she taught voice and conducted choral ensembles at the University of Western Ontario and later at Algoma University College in Sault St. Marie, Ontario. During the 1985-86 academic year, Mrs Ollikkala resided in London, England where she sang in the London Symphony Chorus and the London Philharmonic Choir under such conductors as Sir John Pritchard and Klaus Tennstedt. For the past three years she has been pursuing doctoral studies in Choral Music at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where her principal teacher was Dr Don V Moses. Debra Ollikkala was awarded a Canada Council Arts Grant "B" in 1988 and was that year's recipient of the Canada Council Sir Ernest MacMillan Memorial Prize in conducting. She joined the University of Alberta, Department of Music, as Assistant Professor of Choral Music in July, 1989.

Robert Ollikkala

A native of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Robert Ollikkala completed both his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance at the University of Western Ontario. His piano teachers have included British pianists Peter Katin and Valerie Tryon, and Canadians William Aide, Damiana Bratuz and John-Paul Bracey. From 1980-1985 Robert Ollikkala was a piano teacher and music theory instructor at Algoma University College in Sault Ste. Marie, where for one year he was also head of the music department. In 1983 he was awarded the Western Ontario Conservatory of Music gold medal for receiving the highest mark in the Teacher's Associate examinations for that year. Since then he has been on the teaching staff and examining board of the Western Conservatory. In 1986 Robert Ollikkala began working towards a PhD in musicology, with an emphasis on Ethnomusicology, at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. He held a Teaching Assistantship during his three years of residency at the University of Illinois. Robert has been awarded a grant by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute to pursue doctoral thesis research in India during the coming year.